

# The American Embassy Newsletter

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Embassy of the United States of America to Lithuania



## Introducing Ambassador Anne E. Derse

On July 24, 2009, the United States Senate confirmed President Barack Obama's nomination of Anne E. Derse as Ambassador to Lithuania. She is expected to arrive in Lithuania in early October.

Ambassador Derse is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister Counselor. She joined the State Department in 1981 after receiving an M.A. in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies and a B.A. in French and Linguistics from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1976.

Ambassador Derse was confirmed to be Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan in May 2006. As Director for Biodefense Policy at the Homeland Security Council (HSC) 2005-2006, she helped develop the Implementation Plan for the U.S. *National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza*. She assisted in establishing the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad in 2004-2005 as Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs. She worked for the Department of State's Under Secretary for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs as Executive Assistant in 2003-2004. As Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Mission to the European Union (USEU) from 1999 to 2003, she led the USEU team managing U.S.-EU economic relations. She served as U.S. Commissioner on the Tripartite Gold Commission, adjudicating sovereign claims for gold seized by the Nazis and recovered by the Allies after World War II, while assigned as Economic Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Brussels 1997-1999.

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Ambassador Derse helped coordinate United States' participation in the 1996 APEC Summit as Economic Counselor and Deputy Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines 1995-1997. She served as Special Assistant for Asian Affairs to State's Under Secretary for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs from 1993 to 1995. As Finance and Development officer and Deputy Economic Counselor in Korea 1989-1993, she helped establish the Presidents' Economic Initiative, the Dialogue for Economic Cooperation and Treasury-Ministry of Finance Financial Policy Talks.

Ambassador Derse received a Presidential Meritorious Service Award in 2006, the State Department's Cordell Hull Award for Senior Economic Achievement in 2004, the Herbert Salzman Award for Excellence in International Economic Performance in 1986, and Department of State Superior Honor Awards in 1994, 1996, 2002, 2004, and 2006. She graduated with distinction from the Department's Economic and Commercial Studies program in 1989. She speaks French, Italian and Azerbaijani.

Ambassador Derse was born in Lakewood, Ohio in 1954. She is married to former diplomat E. Mason Hendrickson, Jr. They have four children.

### ***American Citizen Services Comes to Klaipeda!***

Consul Bradley Norton will offer American Citizen Services (ACS) in Klaipeda on September 10 at LCC University between the hours of 14:00 and 16:30.

Services will include notariats, passport services, and issuances of certificates of birth abroad (CRBA).

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## **The Facts on 2009-H1N1, Pandemic Influenza, and H5N1**

### **What Is It?**

2009-H1N1 influenza (sometimes referred to as "swine flu") is a new virus causing illness in humans. It was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009, and the symptoms resemble those of seasonal flu. The virus is spreading from person-to-person, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza spreads.

The WHO has declared a “phase six” pandemic in response to the rapid spread of the 2009-H1N1 virus, indicating community level outbreaks in two or more different regions of the world. However, most individuals infected with 2009-H1N1 influenza fully recover, and the WHO considers the overall severity of the pandemic to be only moderate.

***NOTE: You cannot catch 2009-H1N1 by eating properly cooked pork products.***

### **Traveling Abroad**

Americans planning to travel to a country that has reported outbreaks of 2009-H1N1 influenza, or who are concerned about 2009-H1N1 influenza, are advised to visit the HHS/CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and the WHO website at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>. As the situation warrants, Lithuanian specific information will be posted on the Embassy website at <http://vilnius.usembassy.gov/> and/or the Consular Section will send out warden notices alerting Americans living in Lithuania of specific events.

### **A 2009-H1N1 Vaccine**

The U.S. Government is currently working with manufacturers to facilitate the production of a 2009-H1N1 vaccine. The 2009-H1N1 vaccine is expected to be available in the fall of 2009. The seasonal flu vaccine does not protect against 2009-H1N1 influenza.

### **Antiviral Drugs for 2009-H1N1**

HHS/CDC recommends the use of oseltamivir and zanamivir (commonly known by their brand names of Tamiflu® and Relenza®) for the treatment of 2009-H1N1 influenza and provides guidance for consideration of their use in prevention of 2009-H1N1 influenza. Guidance for using these antiviral drugs for the treatment and prevention of 2009-H1N1 influenza may change as researchers learn more about this new virus.

### **If a Pandemic Hits – Information for Americans Abroad**

Once the World Health Organization (WHO) confirms a **severe** pandemic, American citizens (including non-emergency government personnel and their dependents, as well as private citizens) who are residing or traveling overseas should consider returning to the United States while commercial travel options are still available. Americans will be permitted to re-enter the United States, although the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (HHS/CDC) may quarantine or isolate incoming travelers, depending on their health status and whether they are traveling from or through an area affected by pandemic influenza.

Any American (whether overseas in a private capacity or a U.S. Government employee or dependent) who chooses not to return to the United States via commercial means might have to remain abroad for the duration of the pandemic if transportation is disrupted or borders close. **Americans should be aware that only in cases of a complete breakdown in civil order within a country will the U.S. Government consider a U.S. Government-sponsored evacuation operation.**

Individuals with chronic medical conditions may be at higher risk of suffering complications from influenza and should consider returning to the United States at the onset of a pandemic or of postponing travel during a pandemic. According to HHS/CDC, those at high risk may include: pregnant women; adults and children who have chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, hematological or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus); adults and children who have immunosuppression (including that caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus); and adults and children who have any condition (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders or other neuromuscular disorders) that can compromise respiratory function.

Due to legal restrictions and a lack of sufficient resources, the U.S. Department of State is not in a position to provide private American citizens traveling or living abroad with supplies, medications or medical treatment in the event of a pandemic. U.S. Government assistance should include communicating with family and friends on an individual's behalf, monitoring quarantine/detention conditions as permitted by local health authorities, arranging for transfers of funds or granting temporary subsistence loans, and providing information regarding the availability of medical care (to be paid for by the individual). Private American citizens should be aware that the U.S. Government cannot demand their immediate release if they have been detained or quarantined abroad in accordance with public health and legal authorities.

### **Advice to Americans During a Pandemic**

#### **Private American Citizens Residing Abroad or Working Overseas Long-Term:**

Consider local conditions and evaluate your ability to maintain adequate supplies of food, water, and medication should a **severe** pandemic result in borders closing or disruptions in international travel. Decide on your optimal location in a pandemic and plan accordingly. Ask your doctor in advance about obtaining appropriate medication for treatment if you become ill, keeping in mind it could take many months to develop and produce sufficient quantities of a vaccine during a pandemic.

**Short-Term Visitors, Tourists, and Students Abroad:** Consult with your doctor before you travel and ask about medications you should take with you. Research the availability and quality of medical facilities at your destination and consider purchasing medical evacuation insurance. Be aware that hotels may cease to provide

housekeeping and meal services during a **severe** pandemic. Consider changing your travel plans or returning to the U.S. once there is evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission of a more severe form of influenza in one part of the world, since commercial air transportation may become unavailable at an early point.

**Plan to Remain in Country:** In the event of a **severe**, global pandemic, Americans who are overseas should be prepared to remain abroad for an extended period. You should avoid non-essential travel beyond your dwelling and workplace and you should limit activities that could expose you to others who may be ill. Based on varying conditions abroad, Americans should prepare contingency plans and emergency supplies (non-perishable food, potable water or water-purification supplies, medications, etc.) for the possibility of remaining in country for at least two and up to twelve weeks. Visit the U.S. Government's flu website at [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) to see examples of comprehensive planning checklists for individuals, businesses, schools, and other groups.

### ***What Can You Do to Stay Healthy?***

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds to eradicate viruses and bacteria. When soap and water are not available, apply a hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60 percent alcohol content.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Get vaccinated against seasonal flu.
- Ask your employer, organization or school about pandemic contingency plans.
- **Please review detailed community mitigation guidelines, as well as information on the use of masks and anti-viral medications in a pandemic, also available at [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).**

## Secretary Clinton's Statement on the 20th Anniversary of the Baltic Way

Today the people of the United States join with our friends in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to honor the 20th Anniversary of the Baltic Way protests against Soviet domination that inspired so many people around the world in 1989. On August 23, 1989, two million Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians formed a human chain that stretched 600 kilometers across the three Baltic Republics, capturing the world's attention and advancing the cause of freedom. Because of their courage, August 23 -- once infamous as the anniversary of the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany that led to the occupation of the Baltics -- now stands as a landmark in the struggle for self-determination.

People across the Baltic Republics will commemorate this day through public events including photo exhibits, film festivals, a letter-writing competition, and a motorcycle tour retracing the route of the human chain, as well as through countless private remembrances. They have many reasons to be proud. The same determination and spirit that fueled the Baltic Way protests have helped the Baltic Republics become champions of human rights and democracy. They are valued members of NATO and the European Union and provide leadership around the world.

On this historic occasion, let me reaffirm the commitment of the United States to strengthen and deepen our partnerships with the people and governments of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

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## 2009 Foreign Service Exam

The Foreign Service Officer Test is being offered at the U.S. Embassy Vilnius on October 6th and 8th at 09:00 AM (arrival time - 08:30 AM).

To find more information and register for the test, please visit the website: <http://careers.state.gov/officer/register.html>. You may also contact the Embassy Community Liaison Office (CLO) at [clovilnius@state.gov](mailto:clovilnius@state.gov) for additional test information and access to study guides.

Deadline for candidates intending to submit a completed Registration Package is **September 24 09:00 AM** (U.S. Central Daylight Time).

## Immigrant Visas Come to Vilnius

In April, the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius issued its first immigrant visa since the embassy's opening in 1991. Ambassador Cloud presented the first immigrant visa to a Lithuanian woman emigrating to join her American citizen husband in the U.S.

Prior to the opening of the Embassy's immigrant visa unit, Lithuanians had to travel to U.S. Embassy Warsaw for immigrant visa interviews. The Embassy now issues all classes of immigrant visa except Diversity Visas. **The Embassy will start issuing Diversity Visas sometime after October 1, 2009.**

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## U.S. Embassy's American Center Acquires New Books/DVDs

### AVAILABLE BOOKS

#### NON-FICTION

##### **Arsenals of Folly: The Making of the Nuclear Arms Race, by Rhodes, Richard**

*Richard Rhodes digs deep into the workings of the Cold War to explain how and why, between 1949 and 1991, apocalyptic nuclear war could easily have occurred—and how and why it was avoided. Through dramatic narrative and readable prose, Rhodes reveals the disjointed policies, bureaucratic infighting, and paranoia that marked this era, while profiling Soviet and American leaders*

##### **Bomb Scare: The history and future of nuclear weapons, by Cirincione, Joseph**

*Cirincione, the former director of the Nonproliferation Project at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, takes the reader through the history of the development of nuclear weapons and the arms control agreements that have somewhat curtailed their spread. This book deals with something that most of us don't spend much time thinking about. We should think about it more.*

##### **The Book of Numbers: the secret of numbers and how they changed the world, by Bentley, Peter, 1972-**

*In clear language, The Book of Numbers cuts through the mystery and fear surrounding numbers to reveal their fascinating nature and roles in architecture, quantum mechanics, computer technology, biology, commerce, philosophy, art, music, religion and more. Indeed, numbers are part of every discipline in the sciences and the arts.*

**Business Genius: A More Inspired Approach to Business Growth, by Fisk, Peter (Peter Robert)**

*Describes how to grow your business more effectively through intelligent strategy and imaginative leadership, radical innovation and sustained change. Combining the entrepreneurial passion of a start-up with the commercial rigor of large enterprises... this is for everyone who seeks the inspiration to think and act differently.*

**Critical Chain, by Goldratt, Eliyahu M., 1948-**

*Powerful yet simple techniques to solve project management's toughest problems. This book teaches companies to drastically cut project development times resulting in early completion within budget and without compromising quality or specifications.*

**Customer Genius, by Fisk, Peter (Peter Robert)**

*10 building blocks, 30 practical tools, 50 inspirational stories.*

**Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance, by Obama, Barack**

*Obama argues with himself on almost every page of this lively autobiographical conversation. He gets you to agree with him, and then he brings in a counter narrative that seems just as convincing.*

**Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea - Bloom's Literary Criticism, An**

*Each attractive volume presents recent essays by noted critics who examine in detail aspects of a single literary work*

**The Gun and the Pen: Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Faulkner, and the Fiction of Mobilization, by Gandal, Keith**

*A bold and entirely original interpretation of the leading American modernist writers and their greatest works.*

**Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution and How It Can Renew America, by Friedman, Thomas L.**

*Friedman explains how global warming, rapidly growing populations, and the astonishing expansion of the world's middle class through globalization have produced a planet that is "hot, flat, and crowded."*

**How to Market Your Business: A Practical Guide to Advertising, PR, Selling, and Direct and Online Marketing, by Patten, Dave.**

**The Innovation Superhighway: Harnessing Intellectual Capital for Sustainable Collaborative Advantage, by Amidon, Debra M., 1946-**

*One of the fundamental pieces of work dealing with how to create sustainable collaborative advantage through the development and implementation of knowledge strategies. The book defines the innovation frontier as our future assets and includes superb examples of innovation infrastructures being created in companies and countries - giving an understanding of how the attention should be on the people and not the technology per se.*

**Interest Group Politics**

*In a time of partisan parity, when control of Congress is always within reach of the minority party at the next election, interest groups have every incentive to keep the pressure on. And they do.*

*But the imbalance of influence that tilts toward moneyed interests is one of the cornerstones of the political system.*

**The Wealth of Nations, by Smith, Adam, 1723-1790.**

*Using a vast historical database and plenty of everyday examples Adam Smith lays the foundations of modern economics without the formalization which would come later.*

**What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848, by Howe, Daniel Walker.**

*Historian Howe, professor emeritus at Oxford University and UCLA (The Political Culture of the American Whigs), stylishly narrates a crucial period in U.S. history—a time of territorial growth, religious revival, booming industrialization, a recalibrating of American democracy and the rise of nationalist sentiment.*

**FICTION**

**The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian/by Alexie, Sherman, 1966-**

*Exploring Indian identity, both self and tribal, Alexie's first young adult novel is a semiautobiographical chronicle of Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, a Spokane Indian from Wellpinit, WA.*

**Back When We Were Grownups/ by Tyler, Anne.**

*On the first page of Tyler's stunning new novel, Rebecca Davitch, the heroine (and heroine is exactly the right word) realizes that she has become the "wrong person." No longer the "serene and dignified young woman" she was at 20, at 53 Rebecca finds she has become family caretaker and cheerleader, a woman with a "style of dress edging dangerously close to Bag Lady."*

**Books: A Memoir, by McMurtry, Larry.**

*The Pulitzer Prize-winning author McMurtry shares with readers his lifelong passion and dogged pursuit of books. In short, gem-like chapters, he paints a fascinating picture of the landscape of American book culture and book selling over a 50-year period.*

**Down River, by Hart, John, 1965-**

*The plot moves energetically through interesting terrain: a southern county torn apart by the possibility of easy wealth, a family ruptured by suspicion, and a community that despises the book's protagonist. Hart expertly weaves his main theme: that by their freedom of choice, humans are capable of betrayal but also of forgiveness and redemption.*

**Indignation, by Roth, Philip.**

*Roth's brilliant and disconcerting new novel plumbs the depths of the early Cold War-era male libido, burdened as it is with sexual myths and a consciousness overloaded with vivid images of impending death, either by the bomb or in Korea.*

**The O. Henry Prize Stories 2008 - New York: Anchor Books, 2008.**

**The Summons, by Grisham, John.**

*Law professor Ray Atlee and his prodigal brother, Forrest, are summoned home to Clanton, Mississippi, by their ailing father to discuss his will. But when Ray arrives the judge is already dead, and the one-page document dividing his meager estate between the two sons seems crystal clear. What it doesn't mention, however, is the small fortune in cash Ray discovers hidden in the old man's house--\$3 million he can't account for and doesn't mention to brother Forrest, either.*

**Time and Materials: Poems, 1997-2005, by Hass, Robert.**

*The first book in 10 years from former U.S. poet laureate Hass may be his best in 30: these new poems show a rare internal variety, even as they reflect his constant concerns.*

**AVAILABLE DVDs and CDs**

**The 39 Steps (1935)**

(The rank collection, 82 min., b&w)

*Hitchcock's first great romantic thriller is a prime example of the MacGuffin principle in action.*

**75th Annual Academy Short Films - Los Angeles: Apollo Cinema, 2003.**

(Color, 100 min.)

**All About Eve (1950)**

(138 min., b&w)

*Showered with Oscars, this wonderfully bitchy (and witty) comedy written and directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz concerns an aging theater star (Bette Davis) whose life is being supplanted by a wolf-in-sheep's-clothing ingénue (Anne Baxter) whom she helped.*

**Amadeus: Director's Cut**

(Color, 180 min, two-disc special ed.)

*This marvelous winner of eight Academy Awards(R) portrays the rivalry between the genius Mozart (Tom Hulce) and the jealous court composer (Best Actor Oscar(R) Winner F.Murray Abraham) who may have ruined Mozart's career and shortened his life.*

**American Cinema.**

(6 discs)

*The Hollywood Style; The Studio System; The Star; The Western; Romantic Comedy; The Combat Film; Film Noir; Film in the Television Age; The Film School Generation; The Edge of Hollywood; Film Language; Writing and Thinking about Film; Classical Hollywood Style Today.*

**Apollo 1**

(Color, over 4,5 hours)

*Over four hours of material documenting the mission and accident of Apollo 1. Includes rare training footage, crew in the simulator, visiting contractor plant, press day, more. The most complete collection ever assembled on Apollo 1.*

**Around the World in 80 days**

(Color, 182 min., 2 disc special ed.)

*One of the best of the 1950-1960's grand epics. Nominated for several Academy Awards, written by John Farrow and S.J. Perelman, based on Jules Verne's 1873 classic.*

**The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World/ by Ferguson, Niall.**

(9 audio CD's, 11,5 hours)

*Niall Ferguson follows the money to tell the human story behind the evolution of finance, from its origins in ancient Mesopotamia to the latest upheavals on what he calls Planet Finance.*

**The Bette Davis Collection**

(5 discs)

*All About Eve; Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte; The Virgin Queen; Phone Call from a Stranger; The Nanny)*

**The Beverly Hillbillies**

(4 discs, 12 hrs., 45 min., b/w & color. Ultimate collection, 1962)

*This astounding Ultimate Collection, with rare footage culled from creative genius of TV pioneer Paul Henning's private archive, features 26 newly-restored and unedited episodes with the classic opening and closing theme songs (The Ballad Of Jed Clampett), the complete and never-before-broadcast pilot (The Hillbillies Of Beverly Hills), rare cast commercials, interviews and a heapin' helpin' of behind the scenes footage.*

**The Broadway melody (1929)**

(100 min., b&w)

*This film is tons of fun! One of the most famous tap numbers in film history distinguishes Broadway Melody of 1940, the fourth and final installment in MGM's Broadway Melody series.*

**Change we can believe in: Barack Obama's plan to renew America's promise, by Obama, Barack.**

(6 Audio CD's, 7, 5 hours)

*Throughout this audio book you will find bold and specific ideas about how to fix our ailing economy and strengthen the middle class, make health care affordable for all, achieve energy independence, and keep America safe in a dangerous world. Change We Can Believe In asks you not just to believe in Barack Obama's ability to bring change to Washington, it asks you to believe in yours.*

**A Collection of 2005 Academy Award Nominated Short Films**

(Color, 162 min.)

**A Collection of 2006 Academy Award Nominated Short Films**

(Color, 3 hrs 20 min.)

**Driving Miss Daisy.**

(Special ed., widescreen version, COLOR, 99 min.)

*Winner of the Academy Award for best picture of 1989, this gracefully moving drama, adapted from the hit play by Alfred Uhry. The funny, tender story of a feisty Southern lady and her chauffeur, fueled by the star power of Jessica Tandy, Morgan Freeman and Dan Aykroyd.*

**Emerson: The Ideal in America**

(53 min.)

*The fascinating life and teaching of "America's Founding Thinker." Spanning most of the 19th century, through fame and tragedy, Emerson's words still ring true for spiritual seekers today.*

**Gentleman's Agreement (1947)**

(118 min., b&w)

*Elia Kazan directed this sometimes powerful study of anti-Semitism in nicer circles, based on Laura Z. Hobson's post-World War II novel. A journalist assigned to write a series of article on anti-semitism. Searching for an angle, he finally decides to pose as a Jew-and soon discovers what is to be a victim of religious intolerance.*

**Great American Authors: Since 1650**

(4 discs, 30 min. each)

*Presented by Jane Kaczmarek, Great American Authors presents the rich, literary tradition of American storytelling...No country has produced a more impressive group of writers in a shorter period of time than America. Featuring such greats as Poe...Dickenson...Twain...Alcott...Hemingway..Wolfe...Steinbeck...Vonnegut and Morrison, this eight part series presents the lives and literary output of over 60 of America's most read authors.*

**The Great Ziegfeld (1936)**

(186 min., b&w).

*Winner of three Academy Awards including Best Picture, The Great Ziegfeld stars William Powell in a biopic "suggested by romances and incidents in the life of America's greatest showman, Florenz Ziegfeld Jr."*

**How Green Was My Valley (1941)**

(118 min. b&w, 1 disc)

*John Ford's beautiful, heartfelt drama about a close-knit family of Welsh coal miners is one of the greatest films of Hollywood's golden age--a gentle masterpiece that beat Citizen Kane in the Best Picture race for the 1941 Academy Awards.*

**The Michael Douglas Collection**

(Color, 355 min.; special ed.)

*Don't Say a Word; Wall Street; The War of the Roses.*